

(b) an attachment shaft mounted in the angle attachment housing and having an attachment end extending therefrom;

(c) a first attachment shaft bearing mounted in the angle attachment housing and positioned therein to support the attachment shaft for rotational movement thereof;

(d) an attachment shaft gear attached to the attachment shaft;

(e) an alignment bearing mounted in the angle attachment housing and adapted to receive a first shaft having a first shaft gear mounted thereon to support the first shaft for rotational movement thereof and positioned in the angle attachment housing such that when the first shaft is positioned in the alignment bearing the attachment shaft is at an angle to the first shaft and the attachment shaft gear is engaged with the first shaft gear; and

(f) [additionally] a first shaft having a first shaft gear mounted thereon positioned in the alignment bearing.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of September 22, 1999, Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,718,621 to Turley. In view of the foregoing amendment claims 1, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of the claims be withdrawn, and that the rejected claims be allowed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 of the present patent application is drawn to an angle attachment for a power tool. Claim 1 features an angle attachment housing, an attachment shaft mounted in the angle attachment housing, a first attachment shaft bearing to support the attachment shaft for rotational movement thereof in the angle attachment housing, an attachment shaft gear attached to the attachment shaft, and an alignment bearing mounted in the angle attachment housing and

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adapted to receive a first shaft having a first shaft geared mounted thereon to support the first shaft for rotational movement thereof and positioned in the angle attachment housing such that, when the first shaft is positioned in the alignment bearing, the attachment shaft is at an angle to the first shaft and the attachment shaft gear is engaged with the first shaft gear. By the foregoing amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the angle attachment is removable, and that alignment bearing featured therein is adapted to removably receive a distal end of the first shaft.

As discussed in the application specification, a removable angle attachment in accordance with the present invention may be used to enhance the utility of a spiral cutting tool, or similar hand-held power tool, by allowing such a power tool to be used to drive cutting wheels, sanding disks, and similar attachments. (See, *e.g.*, page 2, line 20, through 3, line 2.) The alignment bearing featured in Claim 1, as amended, is adapted to removably receive a distal end of a first shaft having a first shaft gear mounted thereon. Thus, even though the first shaft is removable from and insertable into the angle attachment, the alignment bearing ensures proper engagement of the first shaft gear with the attachment shaft gear when the first shaft is positioned in the alignment bearing. (See, *e.g.*, Fig. 5, and page 4, line 18, through page 5, line 10, and page 13, lines 12-27, of the application specification.)

It is respectfully submitted that Turley does not describe or suggest a removable angle attachment including an alignment bearing adapted to removably receive a distal end of a shaft having a shaft gear mounted thereon, as featured in Claim 1, as amended. Turley illustrates and describes a reversible angle grinder wherein a reversible electric motor 44 is connected to a drive shaft 42. The drive shaft 42 is inserted in a bearing 34, and has a bevel gear 40 mounted at the forward extremity thereof. The teeth of the bevel gear 40 mesh with

those of another bevel gear 38 so as to effect a right-angle transfer of force thereby. (See Fig. 1, and Col. 5, lines 12-29, of Turley.) The structure for effecting a right-angle transfer of force in the reversible angle grinder described in Turley is an integral part of the grinder itself. Thus, Turley does not describe or suggest a removable angle attachment, or that the drive shaft 42 be removable from the bearing 34. In other words, Turley does not describe or suggest that the bearing 34 described therein removably receive the drive shaft 42. In contrast, Claim 1, as amended, features a removable angle attachment with an alignment bearing adapted to removably receive a first shaft having a first shaft gear mounted thereon. Furthermore, Turley illustrates and describes a drive shaft 42 having a beveled gear 40 mounted at the forward extremity or distal end thereof. The alignment bearing 34 described in Turley thus supports the drive shaft 42 along the length thereof. In contrast, Claim 1, as amended, features an alignment bearing adapted to removably receive a distal end of a shaft having a shaft gear mounted thereon. Clearly, Turley does not describe or suggest such an alignment bearing, since Turley illustrates and describes a beveled gear 40 mounted at the forward extremity or distal end of the drive shaft 42, which would prevent the distal end of the drive shaft 42 from being received by an alignment bearing (and which also prevents the drive shaft 42 from being removably received by the bearing 34).

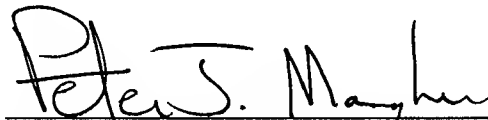
For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by, or unpatentably obvious in view of, Turley, and is, therefore, in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, and 13 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 1, as amended, and incorporate the features thereof. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are also not anticipated by or unpatentably obvious over Turley, and are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, and 10-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the foregoing amendment, Claims 3, 7, 8, and 10 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim, and any intervening claims, from which these claims depended. Claim 4 depends from Claim 3, as amended, and Claims 11 and 12 depend from Claim 10, as amended. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, and 10-12, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 14-25 were allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment of the claims, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims pending in this application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Favorable action on this application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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